

February 24th, 2023
Liam Bambery

In Support of:

S.B. 4: AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S PRESENT AND FUTURE HOUSING NEEDS

Good afternoon Senator Moore, Representative Luxenberg, and the distinguished members of the Housing Committee:

My name is Liam Bambery and I live in Salisbury, Connecticut.

I'm a member of the Nonprofit Accountability Group. NAG fights for equity on all front in many different issue areas. We are part of the CT Renews coalition.

I am testifying in strong support of S.B. 4: An Act Concerning Connecticut's Present and Future Housing Needs. Connecticut has an opportunity to make real progress towards fixing the housing crisis with this bill. Connecticut can become a leader in housing justice for the rest of the country and we need to start now. There are a lot of powerful and innovative pieces of this legislation to really move us in that direction. Everyone deserves safe, healthy and affordable housing and it's time our laws reflect that!

Being from Salisbury, an extremely rural area, I've seen how the lack of affordable housing has an effect on my community. As more wealthy people move to the Northwest corner of CT and price us out, there's less and less housing available for the folks that have lived here for years. I also have lived in Hartford, and I know for a fact that the housing crisis has hit cities hard as well.

I believe S.B. 4 is a really powerful bill, that could be made even more powerful with some enforcement measures. For example, I think the Winter Eviction Moratorium would make a huge difference in folks lives, but with no clear method of holding landlords accountable if they break this rule, I worry it won't change anything. Similarly, the bill should be strengthened by creating a government agency that is specifically in charge of enforcing tenants rights, such as getting the security deposit back, requiring landlords to do routine maintenance, and ensuring the health and safety of the tenants.

We have a chance to put a real dent in the housing crisis with this legislation. The things included in this bill will really improve the quality of life of our communities. I urge the Committee to have the courage to make the right choice and pass S.B. 4 An Act Concerning Connecticut's Present and Future Housing Needs.

Thank you,

Liam Bambery
Salisbury, Connecticut